

WAS FAULT OF ENGLISHMAN.

REASON GIVEN TO ESCAPE CHARGE OF MURDER AND WAS CONSIDERED.

Washington, March 29.—Aldavita, the Italian survivor of the sinking of the Lusitania, which was captured from Liverpool, states that the vessel was actually fired. This would make the case parallel to that of the Ansonia.

Secretary Baughman later stated that the affidavit also indicates the Englishman had stopped when the torpedo was actually fired. This would make the case parallel to that of the Ansonia.

APPROXIMATE VENICE.

ANOTHER AIRSHIP BOMB ON THE VENICE CANALS.

London, March 29.—Austrian airship bombed the Venetian lagoon, dropping several bombs on the canals.

ALLEGED BOMB BLOWN UP.

AT WASHINGTON, MARCH 29.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ELECTION.

NEW DIRECTORS FOR THIS YEAR.

Washington, March 29.—The Chamber of Commerce announced the results of its election for the year 1916.

CLUB ANXIOUS TO CONTRIBUTE TWO HIGH POWERED MACHINES TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

New York, March 29.—The Aero Club of America announced today that because of the law which prevents the United States government from accepting gifts it has offered to sell to the government for one dollar each the two high powered aeroplanes it recently proffered for use in Mexico. The offer to sell the machines at this price has been forwarded to Secretary Baker.

VILLA RETREATING.

Mexican Bandit Said to Be Making for Sierras—Residents Furnish Information Freely.

Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mex., March 27 (Wireless to Columbus, March 27).—Villa is flying southwest towards the foothills of the Sierras. According to army reports received here today the rapidity of his flight is hastening the American pursuit. All arms of the service are being used in an attempt to force the bandit into a corner.

WOULD RAISE A HOWL.

Sumter Item suggests that in case the State is forced into the insurance business to protect the property of its citizens, the tax returns should form the basis of estimates of values. Now wouldn't that raise a howl in South Carolina. Suppose some of our citizens were forced to insure their property for two-thirds of what they value it at for taxation, wouldn't they do some high kicking?—Rock Hill Herald.

SCORE KILLED, OTHERS HURT.

CHICAGO-BUFFALO FLYER IS WRECKED AT AMHERST, OHIO, WHEN IT CRASHED INTO OTHER TRAIN.

One Section Had Stopped for Water—Twenty-five Bodies Recovered This Morning—Many of Them in Fearful Mangled Condition—No Deaths on Twentieth Century Flyer—More Than Hundred Injured Taken to Nearby Points for Treatment.

Cleveland, March 29.—Seventeen bodies have been recovered from the double wreck on the New York Central railroad in which two sections of the Chicago-Buffalo Flyer and the 20th Century Limited crashed into each other. Over one hundred others were injured. The rear end collision between the two sections of the Buffalo Flyer occurred first and scattered wreckage over the west bound track. A minute later the 20th Century crashed into the wreckage, the engine and cars turning over. The first accident was caused by fog.

The wreck occurred near Amherst, Ohio, when the first section stopped to take water at 4:30 this morning. Twenty-five bodies had been recovered at 11 o'clock. Some of the victims were decapitated. Arms, legs and portions of human bodies were found scattered throughout the wreckage. Some of the victims will never be identified. Only two coaches of the 20th Century Limited were overturned. There were no deaths on that train. Most of the victims were in the last two coaches of the first section of the Chicago to Buffalo train. Engineer Hess of the second section of the Chicago-Buffalo train miraculously escaped injury. He stated that he was running sixty miles an hour. He did not see the block signal. The dead were taken to Amherst and about one hundred injured to Elyria.

COMMISSION WILL INVESTIGATE.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 29.—The Interstate Commerce Commission announced today that it will make a thorough investigation of the Amherst wreck.

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LEXINGTON SWEEP BY FIRE.

MANY BUILDINGS BURNED WITH LOSS OF \$100,000.

Fire Broke Out About 11 o'clock and Every Business Structure Was Destroyed, Except Three—Column Sends Fire Truck to Aid Neighbors.

Lexington, March 28.—Twenty buildings in the heart of Lexington, mostly business structures, were destroyed with their contents lost within two hours by a fire which broke out shortly after 11 o'clock, inflicting a loss estimated by Mayor Charles E. Taylor at \$100,000, less than half covered by insurance.

Driving southward before a strong breeze, the flames at 1 o'clock were sweeping both sides of the main street and they were checked only by a sudden shift of the wind, which blew simultaneously with the arrival of a motor fire engine company from Columbia, 12 miles away. Ten minutes afterward it was apparent that the fire area had reached its extreme extent, though brisk work was still required to quench incipient blazes in nearby structures.

Lexington's water supply is from wells only and the town is without even a volunteer fire department. Bucket brigades did what they could but were hampered by an early developed scarcity of water and lack of ladders, pike poles and household goods were removed from most of the dwellings. Practically nothing was saved, the mercantile establishments, the stores of the merchants, retrieved portions of their stock, only to have it consumed as they lay piled in the street.

Early this morning but three business buildings in the town were left standing. These are the large two-story brick building occupied by Cannon & Kaminer, general merchandise; the Kaufman building, occupied by the Kaufman Drug Company and the structure which housed the drug store of Meetsie & Sons. The fire area on the principal street defined at one end by the Cannon & Kaminer building and at the other by the county court house, spread to the county jail, which faces each of these bounds and though estimated damaged is the only structure to sort in the fire area which escaped utter destruction.

Andrew C. Sawyer's drug store, most in the middle of the fire area, was the place of origin of the night-march of smoke which spread to the east and south.

OUR AIRMEN DROPPED BOMBS ON THE RAILROAD STATIONS AT DVNSK AND WILWY AND ON THE RAILROAD DEPOT BELONGING TO BARONOVICHI AND MINSK.

"Balkan theatre: There is no change in the situation."

SOUTHERN MAKES LOAN FUND.

Will Establish Aid for Students in Clemson College.

Washington, March 29.—As a perpetual memorial to the great interest in Southern farming manifested by the late President Finley, President Harrison, of Southern Railway Company, has arranged to give \$1,000 each to the State colleges in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee, to be designated "Southern Railway Loan Fund: William Wilson Finley Foundation." Loans from the fund in each State are to be made by the College authorities to worthy students in such way as the authorities of each college may determine, subject only to the restriction that the students receiving the benefits shall be from counties traversed by the lines of Southern Railway Company or its associated companies.

This permanent loan fund will take the place of the four-year Southern Railway scholarships provided by Mr. Finley which will expire with the close of the present school year.

SPONSOR ANNOUNCED.

Louisville, March 29.—Gen. Young announced today Miss Gladys Kernan, of New Orleans will be sponsor, and Mrs. Governor Harris, of Georgia, chaperon of the Confederate reunion to be held in Birmingham.

MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD.

A license to marry has been granted one colored couple: Harry Croskey and Mamie Galloway, Sumter.

BRICK; ENTERPRISE HARDWARE COMPANY, ONE STORY, BRICK; SURRETT'S BAZAAR, ONE STORY, WOODEN; G. M. HARMAN RESIDENCE, TWO STORY, WOODEN; LEXINGTON DISPATCH, ONE STORY, WOODEN; SCOTT HENDRIX FURNITURE COMPANY, TWO STORY, WOODEN; CITIZEN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, BRICK; MRS. E. G. WINGARD'S GROCERY, ONE STORY, WOODEN; S. J. LONG BARBER SHOP, TWO STORY, BRICK; BANK OF WESTERN CAROLINA, ONE STORY, BRICK; UNOCCUPIED RESIDENCE OWNED BY SCOTT HENDRIX, TWO STORY, WOODEN.

A. J. Mathias was having his store room torn down and brick were on Main street preparatory to building a new structure. Mr. Mathias, therefore, saved his stock of goods, having recently removed them from the old building.

The Kaufman building, occupied by the Kaufman Drug Company, caught but was extinguished by small damage by efficient bucket brigades and an opportune change of the wind. The plate glass windows were smashed. The roof building, which was totally destroyed, was not occupied.

Lewie Hall was moving out of his store and therefore his stock of goods was saved.

BERLIN ADMITS BRITISH GAIN.

REPORTS DESTRUCTION OF TRENCHES BY MINE.

Germany Claim to Have Repulsed all Assaults and to Have Regained Some Ground From Russians.

Berlin, March 27 (via London).—More than 100 yards of German trenches near St. Eloi have been blown up by the British, German army headquarters announced today. West Prussian regiments were successful in recapturing the artillery observation positions lost by the Germans March 20 near Mokrzyce, near Barocz lake, on the Russian front, today's announcement states.

The statement reads: "Western theatre: By an extensive mine explosion early this morning the British damaged our position near St. Eloi, south of Ypres. More than 100 yards of trenches were blown up. Casualties were caused among the company occupying the position."

"In the district northeast and east of Vermelles we were successful in mine fighting and took some prisoners."

Farther south near La Boisselle, northeast of Albert, some weak English detachments attempted to advance against our positions. They were prevented by our fire.

During the past few days the British again shelled the town of Lens. In the Argonne and in the region of the Meuse artillery and other firing units were only temporarily disabled."

"Eastern theatre: The Russians renewed their attacks with violence against the front occupied by the army of Field Marshal von Hindenburg. The Russians advanced in unprecedented numbers of men and ammunition against the German line northwest of Jacobstadt. They suffered enormous losses without achieving any success."

Near Welkoleselo, south of Vidzy, our advanced detachments captured 27 Russians and two machine guns.

Repeated endeavors made by the enemy against our positions northwest of Postavy completely failed.

After strong attacks by portions of the Russian army corps south of Barocz lake were repulsed the West Prussian regiments made a counter-attack near Mokrzyce in an endeavor to recapture the artillery observation positions which were lost March 20. Our brave troops completed their task in every detail.

During this counter-attack and in the course of the enemy attacks 21 prisoners, 7,400 man were captured and 100 machine guns were taken.

HEADS OF RAILWAY WORKERS' ADJUSTMENT BOARDS WILL ACT TOGETHER TOMORROW.

New York, March 28.—The 30 chairmen of the division adjustment boards of the four unions comprising 400,000 locomotive engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen, met here today and arranged to present their demands for an eight hour day and higher wages to the railroad managers of the country on Thursday. The railroads will have until April 29 to consider the demands. If they refuse them the union delegates must resubmit the proposition to a vote of their members in order to get authority to declare a strike.

SENDS VAUGHN TO ASYLUM.

Former Head of Odd Fellows' Orphan Home is Under Observation.

Columbia, March 29.—Thurston U. Vaughn, under death sentence for abuses he has confessed to having committed upon girls who were in his care when he was superintendent of the Odd Fellows' orphan home at Greenville, was yesterday removed from the State penitentiary and committed to the State Hospital for the Insane for treatment and for observation.

Orders providing for the transfer were issued by Frank B. Gary of Abbeville, circuit judge, upon the application of Proctor A. Bonham, solicitor, counsel for Vaughn concurring. Last October Vaughn was taken back to Greenville to be sentenced, the supreme court having denied his petition for a new trial, but a stay of execution was obtained by his attorneys, pending an examination as to his sanity.

Recently a Columbia physician, J. Heyward Gibbs, M. D., has been studying Vaughn's case, by request of Solicitor Bonham and Gov. Manning. Dr. Gibbs thought that conditions for a fair and clear determination would be better at the asylum and it was on Gov. Manning's suggestion that Judge Gary was asked to authorize the transfer.

Dr. Gibbs will treat and observe the patient at the asylum in cooperation with members of the staff and in time will report his conclusions. Writing not long ago to Solicitor Bonham he advanced the surmise that Vaughn was "malingering," but said this opinion was subject to revision under conditions more favorable to observation.

TORRENS LAND SYSTEM BECOMES LAW.

Columbia, March 28.—Several acts of State-wide importance which were passed by the last legislature were signed yesterday by Gov. Manning.

They include: The Torrens act for the registration of land; the Toole act for teaching agriculture in the public schools; the act providing for a State board of conciliation to settle disputes between capital and labor.

The governor also signed an act amending the code so that the naval militia will share in the special tax in Charleston.

The governor has not yet signed the two quarts a month law.

ALLIES WILL STAND TOGETHER.

ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OVER ENEMY IS AIM OF ENTENTE POWERS.

Paris Conference Adopts Resolution Affirming Unity of Views of Nations in Matters of Military, Economic and Diplomatic Relations.

Paris, March 28.—The conference of the entente allies, which ended today, adopted the following resolutions just prior to adjournment: "The representatives of the allied governments, in conference at Paris, March 27 and 28, 1916, affirm the complete community of views and solidarity of the allies. They confirm all the measures taken to realize unity of action or unity of front."

"They understand by that, at the same time, unity of military action, assured by the entente concluded between the general staffs, unity of economic action, the organization of which the present conference have regulated, and unity of diplomatic action, which is guaranteed, by their unshaken will to continue the struggle to victory for the common cause."

"The allied governments declined to put into practice in the economic domain their solidarity of views and interests. They charge the economic conference, which is to be held shortly at Paris, to propose for them appropriate measures for the realization of this solidarity."

"With a view to strengthen, coordinate and unify the diplomatic action to be exercised to prevent the revictualing of the enemy, the conference has decided to establish at Paris a permanent committee in which all the allies will be represented."

"The conference has decided: First, to continue the organization already begun, at London, of an international central bureau of freight; second, to proceed in common and with the briefest delay to seek practical means to apportion equitably between the allied nations the charges for maritime transportation and check the rise in freight rates."

The decisions of the conference have the force of the decisions of the respective governments because each, with the exception of Russia, was represented by its principal ministers and generals.

The delegates will leave tonight and tomorrow in the same silent and unobtrusive way that they assembled. Premier Asquith and Field Marshal Earl Kitchener will visit Italy before returning to London.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH WILL SEND COMMUNITY UNIT TO MAKE THOROUGH INSPECTION OF SUMTER COUNTY.

Dr. J. A. Hayne, Secretary State Board of Health, has confirmed in a letter to Secretary Reardon, printed below, his promise to have a health survey of Sumter township made at an early date.

DR. HAYNE'S LETTER.

State Board of Health of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C., March 27, 1916.

E. I. Reardon, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: Pursuant to our conversation over phone, I am desirous of sending one of the community units employed by the State Board of Health, to Sumter to do intensive community work. The purpose of this work is to reduce soil pollution, the spread of typhoid fever, hookworm disease, tuberculosis, diarrheal diseases, etc.

The plan pursued is to send one director, a physician skilled in this work, and three health inspectors. They will remain in a county for three months and visit every home in the community in which they work, and by personal conversation, bulletins and illustrated lectures at the school house, strive to drive home the lessons of modern sanitation.

The ultimate object of this work is to educate a county to the necessity of employing a whole-time county health officer who will carry on the work begun by these units.

So far, there are only two counties in South Carolina which have whole-time health officers: viz, Greenville and Richland counties.

I am enclosing herewith copy of Bill, passed by the last General Assembly, for county health officer for Greenville county. I believe that such a Bill passed for a whole-time health officer for Sumter county, would pay many times over the cost of such an officer, both in improving the health conditions in Sumter county and in advertising Sumter city and county, as a progressive city in a progressive county, and I believe that your Chamber of Commerce could take up no better advertising campaign for the city and county than a propaganda for a whole-time county health officer. Yours truly,

(Signed) James A. Hayne, Secretary State Board of Health, Chairman J. A. McKnight of the local board of health informed Secretary Reardon that he approves of the proposed township health survey, and believed that the Sumter health board would request that the city of Sumter be included in this survey by the State Board of Health unit. However, no regular action has been taken as yet by the local health board. The Sumter Chamber of Commerce is working for a whole-time county health officer, and cooperating with Sumter health board and health officer for the best possible sanitary conditions in this city.

LABOR NOT A COMMODITY.

Judge Anderson Throws Out Conspiracy Indictment Against Steel Company.

Youngstown, March 28.—The indictments against five local steel companies for conspiracy in connection with the recent disastrous strike were quashed today by Judge Anderson of the common pleas court on the ground that labor is not a commodity.

PROHIBIT GASOLINE EXPORT.

Washington, March 28.—Representative Shallenberger, of Nebraska, today introduced a resolution prohibiting the exportation of gasoline.

HUNDRED MEN HAVE LIVES ENDANGERED.

Bluefield, W. Va., March 28.—A hundred miners were entombed by an explosion at the West-Vivian mine. Nine were rescued, but nearly all were fatally injured.

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NUMEROUS BIDS FOR PAVING.

TWENTY-ONE CONTRACTORS SUBMIT OFFERS FOR STREET WORK HERE.

Big Crowd in Attendance as Bids Were Opened—Offers Will Be Gone Over Carefully and Decision Will be Announced Later—Various Kinds of Paving Considered.

From The Daily Item, March 29.

There were twenty-one bids placed by contractors for the paving which is to be done on the streets of Sumter and a crowd of more than a hundred paving and material men were on hand last night when the bids were opened to explain any difficulties which might arise as to the meaning of their bids.

In fact so large was the crowd that council found the roll chamber totally inadequate to provide accommodations and the meeting was adjourned to the City of Music, where the bids were opened without any delays or difficulties and tabulated by Mr. L. Lee, engineer for the city.

The bids covered a number of different kinds of paving materials, all of which will be considered by council in the determination of the award for paving. When the bids were announced and tabulated, Mayor Jenney announced that they would be gone over carefully and the award announced, as soon as a decision was reached. He invited the visitors to the Chamber of Commerce supper, an invitation which seemed appreciated by the visitors and which many of them accepted.

COUNTY HEALTH SURVEY.

State Board of Health Will Send Community Unit to Make Thorough Inspection of Sumter County.

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